# southern california dx club

April 2003

QSO: 28000 PH 2002-12-14 0005 DU1/K6ACZ 59 1 K4WI 59 AL
QSO: 28000 PH 2002-12-14 0006 DU1/K6ACZ 59 2 KI9A 59 IL
QSO: 28000 PH 2002-12-14 0009 DU1/K6ACZ 59 3 KC6AWX 59 CA
QSO: 28000 PH 2002-12-14 0010 DU1/K6ACZ 59 4 W5PR 59 TX
QSO: 28000 PH 2002-12-14 0012 DU1/K6ACZ 59 5 K5UTD 59 TX

QSO: 28000 PH 2002-12-14 0014 DU1/K6ACZ 59 6 N4OX 59 FL
QSO: 28000 PH 2002-12-14 0017 DU1/K6ACZ 59 7 K6KM 59 CA
QSO: 28000 PH 2002-12-14 0018 DU1/K6ACZ 59 8 N7GYD 59 WA
QSO: 28000 PH 2002-12-14 0020 DU1/K6ACZ 59 9 K0DU 59 CO
QSO: 28000 PH 2002-12-14 0027 DU1/K6ACZ 59 10 KL7D 59

# SOAP BOX – WORDS FROM THE PRES

We had a great turnout for the February meeting, and I think a great time was had by all that attended. One of the fun things we did at last month's meeting was to ask our members to recall the dumbest thing they ever did relating to Ham Radio…. Now, our club has members that touch just about every occupational profession you can imagine…. We have doctors, lawyers, accountants, rocket scientists, engineers, computer professionals, entrepreneurs, military officers, presidents of companies, and the list goes on and on. Well, you wouldn't believe some of the stories we heard from our members regarding some of the dumb things we have done over the years relating to ham radio….. We wish we would have had a tape recorder at the meeting, to capture some of these stories…

Following that, Skip – KJ6Y gave a great talk on some of the recent tower and antenna projects he has been working on for some of our club meetings. It's great to see our members getting new towers and antennas up, and everyone enjoyed hearing about some of the new antennas that Skip has assembled and played with. Thanks Skip – for the great presentation.

This months meeting well be the pre-cursor to our annual trek to Visalia. I hope to see everyone at the April meeting. It will be on Thursday, April 10, 2003 . Gud DXing to all until then.

Herb

## Voice of the Veep

Had a great time at the meeting in March. We all hope that every thing went well with Pat Marcy's car and that she was able to get home safely. I have put in an offer to her to join us again as soon as she can. I had a great time listening to all off the members talk about the worst equipment they ever owned and or best or worst thing they ever did as a ham. I believe that with all the errors we made and the equipment we purchased we have some how managed to survive and be human.
I will be putting together the raffle board for the major picnic prize. I am negotiating for the prize at this time. We are looking at the FT857, yes the replacement for the FT100D. Just when you thought you had the ultimate rig, someone else comes up with a new idea. Please also remember that in June at the regular meeting, we will be doing Anchor's Away. Perfect opportunity to clean out the shack.

I will be looking forward also to seeing many of you up at Visalia, May 2 - 4. There will be a US Tower Luncheon, but only if you register for the convention, so hurry and sign up, if you are interested in golfing - see Don Bostrom, N6IC I here he is in charge. The Wild Women are planning a day trip - destination NYD, but for the YL's in your life, if you are interested drop a line to me and I will try to let you know what we are up to. I wasn't able to get Charlie from HI Q Antennas, he is preparing for Visalia and Dayton. So I am working on a few other hams for short presentations.
See you at club, 73s Cathy

## E-Mail Addresses

**Reminder — if you change your email address please inform the club membership chairman.**

INT. DX CONVENTION
MAY 2, 3, AND 4
VISALIA

## Next General Meeting

*The SCDXC meets the second Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be held at 7:30 P.M. on April 10, 2003 at Sid Rosenthal Park in Culver City. The park is located 4 blocks west of La Cienega Blvd. and 2 blocks south of Washington Blvd. From the 10 Freeway exit La Cienega south to Washington Blvd. Turn right (west) 4 blocks to McManus Ave (it's La Cienega Ave to the right, McManus to the left). Turn left (south) 2 blocks to the Park. The street dead-ends at the parking lot.*

*Please do not park in the school lot.*

*See ya there!*

## MEETING NOTES

de the secretary

We learned a few of good lessons at the March meeting, the first being that not only does Murphy like to go on DXpeditions, he likes to ride with people to the meetings. This month he chose to ride with Pat Marcy, W7PZ.

Pat who is with ICOM America, was supposed to be the guest, but had car trouble on the way to the meeting and was not able to make it. Hopefully we will be able to reschedule and have Pat at another meeting in the near future.

The second lesson we learned is that when all else fails just ask Skip, KJ6Y to talk about antennas and towers. Skip just finished two installations of the SteppIR antennas by Fluidmotion, one for Jerry, K6AV and one for Harvey, W8DX. Skip seemed to be pleased with the construction and Harvey was happy with the performance. It seems like these antennas just may be the real deal and worth checking out for your next antenna purchase.

A third lesson we learned is that we may want to be a little concerned with the operating abilities of some of the members. During introductions, the members were asked to tell about the biggest radio related goofs they've made. Some of the goofs deserving honorable mention here are:

Carl, WU6D sending his radio in to get the inoperable receiver fixed and getting a note back from the tech with a single word on it… "SQUELCH".

Jim, N6KZ we learned was a **VERY** diligent OO (official observer) sending notices to his Parish Priest and school Principal.

Paul, N6AV learned the hard way that it is important to turn the heaters on if you want to be heard.

Several people including Dan, W7RF had problems remembering that the radio will work a lot better with those pesky shorting plugs installed.

I think my favorite was Sid, NQ6N wanting to show our great hobby to his fellow flight crew, he tuned his airliner's HF radio down into the Ham bands and called CQ. Only to hear "this is San Francisco aero radio you are 59 QSL".

All of this prompted someone to comment that they were worried since these are the people who run our utilities, engineer and design networks, satellites and aircraft.

Bob, W6ZPL walked away with a Heil PL-2 Studio Mic Boom and SM-1 Shock Mount Assembly. Now maybe Bob can keep from knocking his Goldline mic off his desk. Mark, K6FG won the Handheld GPS unit. Cathy, K6VC did another great job on the raffle prizes.

I hope to see everyone at the April meeting and then it's off to the DX convention for May.

## Thanks to WA7BMN

Bruce, WA7BNM, was recently presented with a small token of appreciation for the outstanding job he did as our first web master. We thank him for an excellent job over many years.

Lots of antennas grace the QTH of WA7BNM in the San Fernando Valley.

*The first of April, some do say,*
*Is set apart for All Fools' Day.*
*But why the people call it so,*
*Nor I, nor they themselves do know.*
*But on this day are people sent*
*On purpose for pure merriment.*
*-- Poor Robin's Almanac (1790)*

# Ham Puzzle By Milt, W6RJO

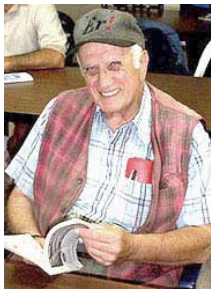
Answer to last months question –
How should our buddy V.H. pick the correct frequency to snag that new one?

V.H. believes that the band pileup upper edge should be chosen, On the presumption that the pileup is spread evenly, to estimate it's upper band edge, V.H., should transmit as close as possible to the pileup highest frequency.

The corresponding caller frequency tentatively marks the upper band edge of the pileup in the sense of a maximum likelihood estimate, Or V H can try the lower band edge (14200 KHz)

Here is the twister for this month. "Tempest at the Swap meet in a Teapot"

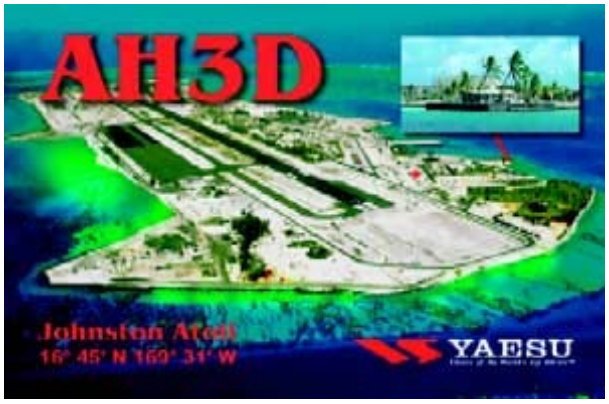
You and your ham buddy at the swap meet simultaneously spot a neat worn working wattmeter for $20. Being both very noble (Bull' I saw it first) agree with the seller to auction it to us. The bids are written. High bidder gets the wattmeter, but must pay the low bidder the amount of the high bid. Tie bids, and the wattmeter is sold to someone else. How much should you bid? Hint: You have to think about this one a



**APRIL SHOWERS**

Life is not a highway
strewn with flowers.
Still it holds
a goodly share of bliss.
When sun give way to April showers,
Here's a point that you should never miss,
Though April showers may come your way,
They bring the flowers that bloom in May.
So, if it's raining, have no regrets.
Because it isn't raining rain, you know,
It's raining violets.
And when you see clouds upon the hills.
You soon will see crowds of daffodils.
So, keep looking for the bluebird
And list'ning for his song,
Whenever April showers come along.

# SCDXC Member OH2BH "vacations" at AH3!




*Martti asked Alan, K6ACZ, to tell us about his experiences on the Island. Here is his reply:*

Hello Martti,

What a surprise to hear from you. I never expected a reply to my little note with my QSL. Yes, I traveled to all the US Coast Guard LORAN Stations in the Pacific, Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines, and Japan during my 25 years in the Coast Guard as a Radio Op/Navigator on C-130's. I remember the boat dock in the QSL insert photo, the Coast Guard LORAN Sta crew would take us, the flight crew, out to the Sand Island LORAN Station by a Boston Whaler boat from there, sometimes after way too many beers at the club. On several occasions we used Johnston as an operation base during ocean searches. We would fly our C-130 there from Hawaii with a double crew on big search missions.

The two flight crews would alternate one day flying with a day off. I was there once on a big search for a missing Japanese fishing trawler which had caught on fire. The crew put out a SOS and jumped into a life raft. The trawler continued to chug along for another 100 miles unmanned. We mistakenly made it the center datum of our search and didn't find the crew's life raft for several days. We dropped them food, water, a VHF HT radio and orbited overhead until we diverted one of their factory ships to pick them up. Made big news back in Honolulu. It was during that search on my days off that I made 100's of QSO's from KJ6BZ. The Pacific Island flights were great. We would carry fresh veggies and even ice cream out to them and they would have 100's of rock lobsters for us to take back to Hawaii. We once spent the night on Christmas Island (T32) in the old W.W.II barracks from the Australian Air Force days. The hanger was still the same as it had been in the 1940's with posters and duty rosters still in place. Supply had spare airplane parts wrapped in the oil soaked paper in packages still on the shelf ready for issue. The natives had left everything the way it was. There were coconut crabs all over, getting into everything. That was before the island was open to the public.

And the girls on Palau, Yap, Ulithi, etc were great! I pitied the guys on Marcus and Iwo Jima. All they had were the Japanese SDFpeople to share the islands! I also was on several LORAN monitoring trips where we checked LORAN signals from the air as well as from a specially equipped van that we carried with us.

Great looking QSL card! I'll be looking forward to receiving mine when they come out.
73!

## Club Badges

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB

N6DHZ

JIM SHRYNE

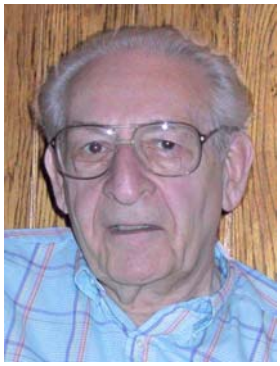
**Badges are available in two sizes Medium (2" X 3") and Large (3" X 3.75") Both are US$8.00ea including postage (to US addresses). Overseas Members contact Paul Lawrence, N6AV, at n6av@scdxc.org for shipping costs.**

**SCDXC Patches are US$2.00 each.**

**Check out the SCDXC Web Page for additional rare collector items**

# Propagation October 2002

**by Shel, W6EL**



These predictions for the five prime HF bands show the times when propagation is expected to be best from Los Angeles to several locations that are expected to be active during the coming month. Other times are possible, but with weaker signals or lower probability. Openings are not expected on bands that are not listed. A solar flux of 127, corresponding to a sunspot number of 80, and an average geomagnetic field are assumed. Sunrise/sunset times are at the DX location. All times are UTC.

Good luck and good DX from Shel, W6EL.

ZW0S St. Peter & Paul -
4/1 to 4/14
Beam 90 degrees
Sunrise/sunset 0759/2000
80: 0430-0730.
40: 0230-0800.
20: 0030-0630.
15: 2000-0430.
10: 1730-2330.

VK9XI Christmas Island -
4/7 to 4/21
Beam 290 degrees
Sunrise/sunset 2305/1051
80: Around 1230.
40: 1100-1330.
20: 1330-1600 and 0900-1000.
15: 1630-1900.

9H Malta -
4/19 to 4/27
Beam 37 degrees
Sunrise/sunset 0424/1737
40: 0330-1400.
20: 0100-0600.
15: 1730-2330.

6W Senegal -
4/19 to 5/1
Beam 71 degrees
Sunrise/sunset 0648/1916
80: 0500-0600.
40: 0300-0630.
20: 0030-0800.
15: 2000-0230.

9N Nepal -
4/22 to 5/20
Beam 337 degrees
Sunrise/sunset 2341/1253
20: 1130-1500. Long path around 0100 and 1230-1330.
15: 0000-0530.

## DX CONVENTION

If you need information about the forthcoming DX Convention in Visalia. Go to the web Page of the Northern California DX Club. The URL is: www.ncdxc.org

# A Visit to DU
# Hamming and Sightseeing
## De K6ACZ

I have just returned from a month in DU with a side trip to Bangkok.. Thanks to all who gave me contest mults and points during the ARRL 10 mtr contest. For a QSL use my home QTH address (OK in RAC/QRZ/ BUCK, etc). I carried my Kenwood TS-50, AT-50, and PS-40 in the little carrying case that Kenwood designed for that purpose which I placed in a larger Pelican case with some clothing for padding. The Cushcraft R-7 vertical, coax, and tools were packed in a golf club bag surrounded with bags of clothing for padding, hence, no extra baggage charges. I arrived in Manila about a week before the contest weekend and set up my station. The R-7 went on the rooftop of a two-story home with the coax snaking down the staircase, along the floor, to my room. I obtained a 10-foot piece of 1 ¼ inch EMT pipe from a local hardware store and attached the base of the R-7 to it. Then, with some help, the R-7 on its 10-foot pipe was raised to a vertical position. The mounting pipe was then attached to some heavy rebar pieces protruding from the roof with some heavy gauge GI wire. It was not pretty to

look at and did not look too mechanical strong but it worked and that is what counts. Now on the air, I discovered a high noise level on 20 meters. A look at the nearby power lines showed all kinds of poor splices to the power lines, some being illegal drops to avoid having to pay for the electricity. However, the rest of the bands were fairly quiet. While working DX the week before the contest 15 meters turned out to be my best band. I could work all of Asia in the morning then all of Europe in the afternoon on 15. I could work Asia in the morning on 20. I could hear US stations on 20 but for the most part, they could not hear me. 10 meters seemed to be dead with only hearing a VK or ZL and them not hearing me. I was afraid of the contest being a bust based on what I could not hear on 10 meters the week before the contest. I listened to the band for about 30 minutes before the contest started but did not hear much. However, as soon as 0001Z rolled around starting the contest the signals started coming thru. It was early morning in Manila and sundown in the USA. First station in the log was K4WI in Alabama. I played search and pounce and was getting some Midwest and West Coast US and VE stations in the log. One station said I was S-9 plus so I tried calling CQ Contest for a while with no takers so back to search and pounce. For the next two hours I was working US and VE stations with an occasional JA that I would hear calling CQ contest. Then the US and VE stations were gone and I was working KL, KH, JA, HL, UA, XW, VK, ZL, and T32 for the next couple of hours. Four hours into the contest the Pacific and Asia were fading out and Eastern Europe such as EX2T, UA4's, EW4's, etc, started coming through. Then the OH's, OE's, LY's, SP's and DL's. Even though I was using a vertical, the signals I was hearing were very selective. I was hearing only one area of Europe at a time. I might have a run of DL's calling CQ contest then they would fade out and the S5, 9A, OK, OM, HA, LZ, and Z3 would come through. They would fade out then the I, TK, 9H stations came through. The first day Europe run ended with the first African in the log, ZS5NK at 1400Z, way past sundown. The next morning started the same with a string of US and VE stations coming through as far east as W4DD in GA. Last station worked in the Americas was ZX2B. Now again coming through were the Asian stations with new mults AP2IA and VQ9X. Then EX2Z and EX8O and more Eastern Europe such as LZ1NG and LZ9X. Signals then proceeded to move across all of Europe, hearing and working several stations in a country at a time then having them fade out as I was hearing further west out to F, ON, CT, G, GM, EI before the band went dead for the night at 1300Z. The next morning I was up before daylight tuning for anything that could be heard coming through. First contact for the remaining 1 hour and 15 minutes was W5WMU in LA starting a run of stations west of the Mississippi River except for K4XS in FL and KY5R in AL. Then, just as the contest was down to the last 15 minutes the US and VE's faded out and I worked a run of JA's calling CQ contest looking for US contacts. I was quite surprised just how selective were the areas I could hear stations calling CQ contest from. It was almost as if a pipeline was forming between Manila and different parts of the world. The effect was most profound in Europe as different areas would boom in then fade out and another area would then boom in. I was impressed by the operating skills of the European operators. Most got my call on the first try even with it's awkward portable designation or got it correct after asking "who's the DU1 stroke something". On the other hand, some US stations tried to make me DU16ACZ or some such call. I would have to repeat several times I was a portable station in the Philippines. I had many stations thank me for a new mult, so I am happy to contribute to their total score. A good time was had by all, including the mosquitoes that managed to sneak onto my back and have a feast. CU next year! 73, Alan, DU1/K6ACZ --

# Steve's Corner

***Rare DX – Mount Athos***

What is rare DX? In the simplest terms, it's rare if you haven't worked it. And it stays rare until you get a card that counts! As you try to work them all, you start collecting band countries. A new band counter can be almost as important as an all-time "new one." (I said, *almost*.) The credit listing that comes back from DXCC submittals, is a matrix of X's and blanks. A closer look reveals a pattern. What do I have confirmed on nine bands (160 through 10)? How many on eight? Seven? And then I realize that I've received band credit for every current DXCC entity on at least two bands except one – Mount Athos. Now that's rare!

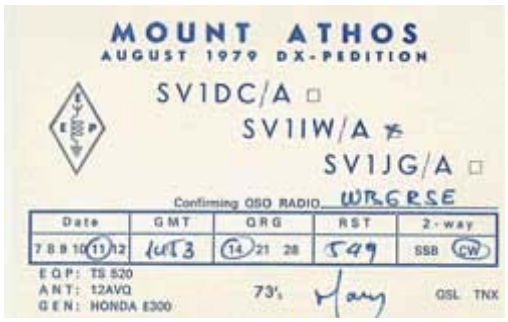
**Where is it? What is it?**

Mount Athos is situated on the eastern third of the peninsula of Halkidiki, the peninsula of Athos, the Holy Mount. It's about 50 Km long, 8 to 12 Km wide. It covers an area of 350 square Km.

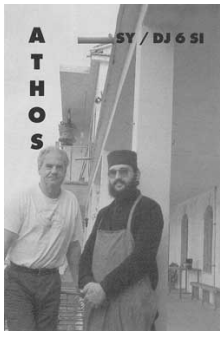
It's an Orthodox spiritual center that has enjoyed autonomy in various forms since 1054. The 'Holy Mountain', is forbidden to women and children. 1,400 monks inhabit the twenty monasteries there. Its school of painting has influenced the history of Orthodox art.

**On the air**

Monk Apollo, SV2ASP/A, is the only licensed amateur there. His activity has been limited over the years. In 1979, a group with Martti Laine, OH2BH, delighted the deserving with an operation. I got through on SSB the evening of August 11th. An all time new one, # 241, thank you. But I would have traded that Q for one on CW. There were reports that a CW contact could be had by request in the phone band. The next morning, I was listening long path on 20m phone. Their signal was weak and so the pile up was not big. And 20m long path — when it's there — is perhaps one of the few advantages we in W6 land have. I picked the moment and I asked about CW. I can still hear that gentle accent of Martti's saying politely: "OK. Just a minute, please." And there he was on CW, 14237. Several of us worked him.




I would not work Mt. Athos again until a visit by Baldur, DJ6SI, in April 1991. It was an easy Q — in the CW band — and of course on 20m. Fun, but not a new one in any sense. A card came, unsolicited. *via the bureau*. Go figure. I have not heard nor worked this rare entity since.




**Want to Visit?**

Any Greek or foreign Orthodox Christian who wishes to visit Mount Athos must obtain a visitation permit which is valid for 4 days. A maximum of 120 Orthodox Christian visitors are allowed per day. Foreigners of other religious affiliations are limited to 14 per day. These limits don't include those that have explicit invitations from the monasteries.

Let me know when you go ***and*** operate. I still need Mount Athos on a few bands……

73, Steve WB6RSE

# International DX Convention–Visalia CA May 2,3 and 4

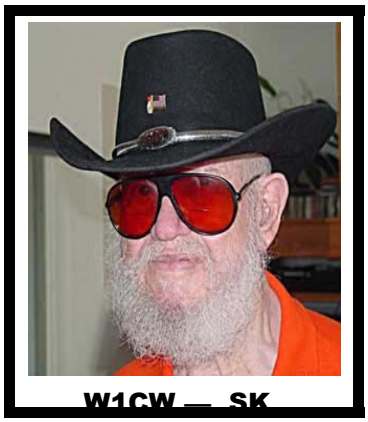
*Ed note: The following letter was received this past month*

Hi Harvey:

Unless I inadvertently missed it I don't think you covered honorary member and Mr. DXCC Bob White, W1CW who died Nov. 22, 2002. *(ed note: see Dec issue)* Bob valued his contact with SCDXC and closeness with so many of the members I'm attaching a photo of Bob taken the month before he left me, plus a pretty wonderful tribute from his son, K4OJ, which tells a lot about my OM.

I'd be proud if you could use these attachments in your next newsletter.

73 to all from Honorary Member
Ellen, W1YL "ln"




I was a Novice who didn't know squat but my Elmer suddenly had need of a 15 meter beam for the family antenna farm, which previously had had none. This is how things were with my Dad, W1CW - a giving man who always put his interests last and everyone else's first.

Dad was the guy who made the DXCC what it was - he checked and administered the program for almost a quarter century in Newington, and he didn't cut any corners - everyone was held to the same high standards - this is what made holding DXCC meaningful. That was during the "heyday" of DXCC, including the evolution of the DXpedition. Dad later went on to set up and run the "new" ARRL outgoing QSL Bureau.

Finally, when he moved to Tampa after Hurricane Andrew we had an opportunity to put together a big ham station - capable of being first through the pileups and supporting multi-operator entries in contests. For numerous hours in the early planning stages we would talk on the telephone while both sitting in front of computers running YO trying antenna designs for the new 15 meter beam for the station. Dad's final design has been a killer into EU ever since.

I was in heaven - we would work on the projects during the week while I was at work and on the weekends and I would install that needed special mounting plate or reinforcement - that would be Dad's project for the week.... and I would come over on Saturdays and piece by piece the antenna farm grew. W1YL (Mom) didn't always approve of Dad's priorities but I always thought they were in order. Multi-ops were hosted and certificates and plaques started showing up in the mailbox. This was ham-heaven.

During late nights when he could not sleep W1CW loved 40 meter CW - especially since his station now had something he had never had before - a rotary yagi - at 135 feet! Each year when I went to Dayton and saw friends they would usually say the same thing "I heard your Dad on 40". He was able to enjoy the station, talking to his friends in the First Class CW Operators' Club and at times marveling at radio - almost like a new ham excited about his first "run" of JA stations - he would tell me "two nights ago was really good - they just kept callin' and callin'" Radio filled almost all his life, ever since his step-dad W6APG introduced him to it.

After the end of each contest we would pow-wow over what could be improved and would this be one of the upcoming projects for the station. Over the years the station grew and outgrew itself - we had to put additional operating positions out on the porch when we went multi-multi but through it all we had a blast. Florida Contest Group multi-operations in all the major CW DX contests, being the hub for the W1AW/4 IARU, and a threepeat as first place finisher in the CW SS were some of the highlights. Mom would keep us ops all well fed - Dad would routinely walk around checking the meters [no Red LED's on the Alphas!]. A respectable contest station was born and raised by W1CW... be it the miles of buried ground system or the custom turnings from his lathe it all came together into a fine machine for making ham radio communications!

This morning my father passed away. His health had been failing and we had been graced with an "extra" year with my Dad after he survived triple pass surgery. I just had lunch with my Mom and my wife and my wife looked at me as I gazed out into the back yard and Teresa smiled and said - "their his monuments" - referring to all those towers and antennas squeezed onto his lot!

Dad had been licensed previously as: W6QEZ, W2QPZ, KH6QJ, W6YYN, and W1WPO. He was a radioman during WW II and a member of ARRL for over 60 years - my Dad would often joke at how the League was gonna lose money big time on his lifetime membership!

In my last talks with him he wanted to hear about the big efforts planned for this weekends CQ WW contest and especially how a fellow club member was coming on a major antenna project.

Radio - when I was little it separated me from my Dad, as I grew older it became the gift that turned by Dad into my best friend... thanks for the ride, Dad - say hello to W0DX and KH6IJ for me.
73,

Jim, K4OJ

## Who We Are

The SCDXC Newsletter is published monthly by the Southern California DX Club and is e-mailed to all club members.

Please notify the editor if you do not receive your newsletter, have a change of address, or have found an error.

Please direct all submissions to the editor.

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## For Sale

**220 Mobile**
Kenwood TM331

**Astron Power Supply**
12V 20 Amp
1 with meters, 1 without

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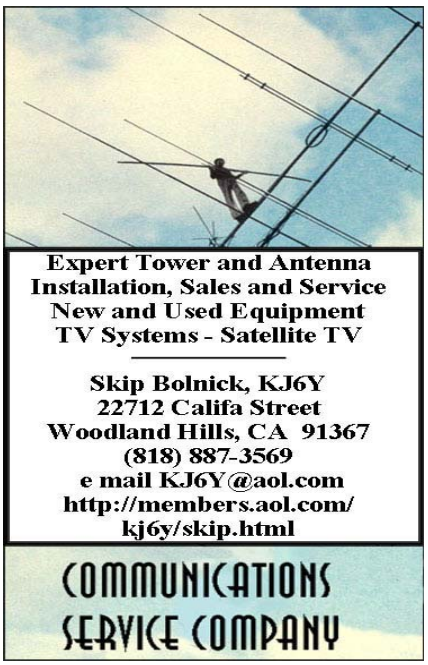


## April Fools Day

The common belief is that that during the reformation of the calendar the date for the New Year was moved from April 1st to January 1st.

During that time in history there was no television and no radio so word spread slowly. There were also those who chose to simply ignore the change and those who merely forgot. These people were considered "fools" and invitations to non-existent parties and other practical jokes were played on them. "All Fools' Day" is practiced in many parts of the world with practical jokes and sending people on a fool's errand.

Another thought is that the origin began with the celebrations of the Spring Equinox.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, New or Renewal

**Return to club treasurer:** Paul Lawrence, N6AV, 2986 Haddington Drive Los Angeles CA 90064

CALL _____ NAME _____ DATE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

HOME TELEPHONE (____) ___ - _____ WORK TELEPHONE (____) ____ - _____

**SCDXC Dues are $18.00 per year, make checks payable to SCDXC**